Time to start watching the best team in Louisville

SPORTS, 1C

Courier Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
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Feds OK Ky. Medicaid changes

Will be first in nation to use work requirement

Deborah Yetter
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Calling it an "exciting day," Gov. Matt Bevin on Friday said federal authorities have given Kentucky broad power to reshape its Medicaid program, making it the first state to win such approval under rules that allow states to include work requirements for some recipients.

"I am excited by the fact that Kentucky will now lead the nation," Bevin said at a news conference at the Capitol Rotunda. "We're ready to show America how this can and will be done."

The news was released Friday by U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth just minutes before Bevin's announcement. Yarmuth called the move "dangerous and irresponsible," saying it will cause tens of thousands of Kentuckians to lose health coverage.

Gov. Matt Bevin announces federal approval of Kentucky's Medicaid waiver in Frankfort on Friday. ALEX SLITZ/LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER VIA AP

But Bevin dismissed such comments and said the plan will transform Medicaid.

"It will be a model for the nation," he said.

But advocacy groups disagreed, including Kentucky Voices for Health, a coalition of health organizations that had opposed the changes as unnecessary and harmful to low-income people who rely on Medicaid for health care.

"Gov. Bevin's plan to reform Kentucky Medicaid remains out-of-touch

See MEDICAID, Page 4A

First a fright, but then a delight

Ice coats a tree branch near Sixth Street on Friday. A freezing rain turned to snow in the afternoon. MATT STONE/COURIER JOURNAL

Fischer: City teams stayed wary, kept 'all hands on deck' in storm

Darcy Costello
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Snow crews and city officials spent Friday bracing for the expected winter storm, which finally started to drop snow on Louisville in midafternoon.

At a briefing on the city's response Friday morning, Mayor Greg Fischer painted a picture of a snow response team under control, with no significant upticks in emergency calls or car crashes as the storm's first stages swept through the metro area.

Weather predictions originally called for rain to turn to freezing rain, followed by snow in the evening hours. The city saw what was likely less freezing rain than expected, due to a dry spot in the storm system, National Weather Service meteorologists said.

Still, projections called for precipitation throughout the day and snow accumu-

See STORM, Page 9A

Louisville shelters buckle down, open up as winter storm roars in

Phillip M. Bailey and Justin Sayers
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The lunch Friday at Wayside Christian Mission in east downtown was lasagna — besides chicken, it's Terry Johson's favorite meal to serve.

He worked in the kitchen, one room away from the gymnasium, where hundreds of homeless people will spend the night to escape sub-freezing temperatures, sleet and snow brought to Louisville by Winter Storm Hunter.

Johnson has been a recovery resident at city's largest emergency shelter since November. It's his third stint there as he continues to battle homelessness and addiction issues after a move from South Side Chicago.

"Each time I came back they always make me feel comfortable," said Johnson, 26, adding that he serves the three meals a day "to see people's smiles."

Wayside had received at least four large donations by 1 p.m., with everything

See MISSION, Page 9A

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